

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1948.



BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1948.

---

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	26,881 acres
Population	10,170
Number of inhabited houses	2,735
Represented by a Penny	
Rate, 1948/49	£238

Although on first seeing this district would appear to be entirely rural and therefore it might be concluded our villages would depend entirely on agriculture, the close proximity of several small industrial towns has had effect on the population. Also, as a result of the war, several villages have had influxes of industrial workers, some of whom are still resident in the new houses provided for them.

**Population.**

Atworth	780	Agriculture	One new industry
Broughton Gifford	690	Mainly Agriculture	
Hilperton	850	Agriculture	
Holt	1,200	Agriculture	Tanyard and Leather Factory Mattress Factory
Limpley Stoke	500	Agriculture	Residential
Melksham Without	2,130	Mainly Agriculture	
Monkton Farleigh	410	Agriculture	Large Government works
Semington	440	Mainly Agriculture	
South Wraxall	430	Mainly Agriculture	
Staverton	270	Agriculture	Large " Milk " factory
Westwood	850	Agriculture	Industrial transferred war industry
Wingfield	290	Agriculture	
Winsley	950	Agriculture	Residential

## VITAL STATISTICS.

**Births.**

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	84	71	155
Illegitimate	9	6	15
	93	77	170
Still Births—Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	1	0	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :			
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	1	2	3
Deaths of Infants under 2 years from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	0	0	0
Deaths from all causes	46	52	98

**Birth and Death Rates.**

		England and Wales
Live Birth rate	17.7	per 1,000 of population. Comparison 17.9
Still Birth rate	.098	per 1,000 of population.     ,,     0.42
Death rate under 1 year	5.8	per 1,000 live births.     ,,     34.0
Death rate under 2 years from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	0	per 1,000 live births.     ,,     3.3
Death rate—all causes	9.6	per 1,000 of population.     ,,     10.8

**Analysis of deaths from all causes.**

	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	—	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Mouth, Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	3
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	5	9
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	10	16
Heart Diseases	19	17	36
Carried Forward	36	35	71

		Male	Female	Total
	<i>Brought Forward</i>	36	35	71
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	1	—	1
Bronchitis	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	1	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	—	—	—
Appendicitis	...	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	1	1	2
Nephritis	...	1	2	3
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	...	—	—	—
Premature Birth	...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	...	—	1	1
Suicide	...	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	...	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	...	—	—	—
All Other Causes	...	5	8	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	<b>46</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>98</b>

NOTE.—By far the largest "cause of death" it will be seen, is from "heart disease." It must be realised that nearly all the deaths from this cause occur in the very old age groups and it is not to be taken as evidence of rheumatic or other acute heart affections.

#### MEAT AND FOODS.

	Number.	Inspections.	Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Bakehouses	...	3	8	—
Slaughterhouses	...	3	37	—
Butchers' Shops	...	3	20	2
Catering Establishments	23	48	11	6
Food Shops	...	33	84	11
Licensed Premises	...	33	19	15
Licensed Slaughtermen	7	—	—	—

During the year, 194 horses have been killed for human consumption. Two carcases, 9 lungs and 36 livers were condemned as unfit for food. No evidence of tuberculosis was observed.

At various other premises, the following articles were condemned :—

Honey and Syrup	...	...	...	11 tins
Dripping	...	...	...	83 tins
Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...	178 tins
Meat	...	...	...	1,088 tins
Milk	...	...	...	101 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	229 tins
Cheese and Macaroni	...	...	...	100 tins
Rolled Oats	...	...	...	27½ lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	7½ lbs.
Pastry Mix	...	...	...	2,564 pkts.
Cheese	...	...	...	42 pkts.
Curry Powder	...	...	...	1½ lbs.
Confectionery Mix	...	...	...	140 lbs.

During the year, all the food catering and retailing premises in the district have been both circularised and inspected. The requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are enforced, and various improvements have been obtained. At the moment, a similar procedure is in progress in connection with the licensed premises (beer-houses, etc.). Particular attention is being given to the need for stringent food and drink hygiene.

#### ICE-CREAM.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices Served.</i>	<i>Notices complied with.</i>
Retailers	...	6	15	1
Manufacturers	...	1	2	—

The only manufacturer of ice-cream in the district uses the "cold mix" process, and the requirements of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1946, are fulfilled.

The apparatus for sampling and testing temperatures of ice-cream has now been purchased. It is hoped to obtain regular samples next season, but some difficulties may be experienced in conveying the samples in good condition to the laboratory in Salisbury.

#### COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices Served.</i>	<i>Notices complied with.</i>
Cowsheds	...	198		
Cowsheds with T.T. Licences	...	25	353	31
Cowsheds with Accredited Licences	48			14

It has not been possible to make as many inspections as are required to obtain an all-round improvement in premises and methods. Various improvements have been made possible, but there remain many premises which require alteration. Additional staff is required to bring this aspect of the work properly under control and to include the taking of bacteriological and biological samples.

An endeavour is to be made in 1949 to inspect, properly record and register the milk retailers in the district.

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	...	...	12
Number of bacteriological samples obtained during 1948	...	...	...	81
Number of samples taken for chemical analysis during 1948	...	...	...	2

During the year, two supplies (Purlpitt and Chalfield) were found to be unfit, and the consumers were notified that drinking water should be boiled. One supply is to be replaced entirely, and the other will, it is hoped, be chlorinated in the near future.

As the result of the routine sampling, various improvements and safeguards have been obtained.

#### FACTORIES.

	Number.	Inspections.	Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Factories with power	24	58	9	4
Factories without power	3			
Outworkers	... 21	20	—	—

During the year, the necessary inspections under Section 34 (Means of Escape in Case of Fire) of the Factories Act, 1937, have also been made and certificates issued where required.

#### SHOPS.

	Number.	Inspections.	Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Shops	... 37	79	—	—

The requirements of the Shops Acts, 1912 to 1936, appear to have been complied with.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	1	1	1
1	1	—	2	2	4	7
3	1	—	0	3	10	10
5	2	4	2	2	12	16
10	2	2	—	—	—	6
15	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	1	1	—	1	1	1
Total ...	7	7	4	9	28	41
Non-civilian 15 and upwards	16	—	7	—	1	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES—cont.

Age Group	Pneumonia		Erysipelas		Acute Poliomyelitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1	2	—	—	—	—
Non-civilian 15 and upwards	3	—	1	—	1	—

**Diphtheria.** Immunisation was carried out continuously by the County Council, great assistance being given by the school staffs, who assisted greatly by allowing the under school-age children to attend the sessions held at the schools.

Regular Immunisation Clinics are carried out :—

1. TROWBRIDGE—The Clinic, The Halve, every 4th Thursday.
2. MELKSHAM—The Old Bank House, every 4th Tuesday, at 2 p.m.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

	Number.	Inspections.
Site Licences ... ... ... }	8	
Individual Licences ... ... }	—	103
Licences refused ... ... }	1	

During the year, the Council's refusal under the Public Health Act, 1936, to issue a licence for a site at Wild Cross, South Wraxall, was the subject of an appeal before the Petty Sessional Court. The Magistrates upheld the Council's decision.

Gypsies camping on Norrington Common, Broughton Gifford, continued to be a source of annoyance to the neighbourhood at intervals throughout the year.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

During 1948, the above service has been brought into operation. Contractors are employed by the Council to visit the district every 3 months and carry out work notified to the Sanitary Inspector's office following newspaper advertisement.

During the year, 75 cesspools and septic tanks have been emptied, and the service has been of value to property owners and occupiers.

**HOUSING.**

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	39
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	16
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	23
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	...	...	8
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	6

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	222
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	52
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	1
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	47
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	1

In a district of this nature, a variety of complaints are received and investigated. Every endeavour is made to obtain the abatement of nuisances by friendly, informal action, and it is only in the cases of difficulty that the matter is reported to the Public Health Committee for statutory action to be considered.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses by drainage and overflowing cesspools.

**SEWERAGE.**

The scheme for seweraging the village of Hilperton and connecting into the sewers of Trowbridge was completed in March, 1948.

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

D. LEIGH SPENCE, M.A., M.B., etc.







*Bradford & Melksham*  
Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1948

BY

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



**Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

## **SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**for the year 1948**

**BY**

**W. A. NOBLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.**

## WATER.

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	12
Number of bacteriological samples obtained during 1948	...	81
Number of samples taken for chemical analysis during 1948		2

During the year, two supplies (Purlpitt and Chalfield) were found to be unfit, and the consumers were notified that drinking water should be boiled. One supply is to be replaced entirely, and the other will, it is hoped, be chlorinated in the near future.

As the result of the routine sampling, various improvements and safeguards have been obtained.

## FACTORIES.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with.</i>
Factories with power	24	58	9	4
Factories without power	3			
Outworkers	... 21	20	—	—

During the year, the necessary inspections under Section 34 (Means of Escape in Case of Fire) of the Factories Act, 1937, have also been made and certificates issued where required.

## SHOPS.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with.</i>
Shops	... 37	79	—	—

The requirements of the Shops Acts, 1912 to 1936, appear to have been complied with.

## PETROLEUM.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with.</i>
Licensed Premises	... 29	14	1	1

It is hoped that a thorough survey of these premises under the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, may be possible during the coming year.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

			<i>Number.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Site Licences	...	...	8	
Individual Licences	...	...	—	103
Licences refused	...	...	1	

During the year, the Council's refusal under the Public Health Act, 1936, to issue a licence for a site at Wild Cross, South Wraxall, was the subject of an appeal before the Petty Sessional Court. The Magistrates upheld the Council's decision.

Gypsies camping on Norrington Common, Broughton Gifford, continued to be a source of annoyance to the neighbourhood at intervals throughout the year.

### RODENT CONTROL.

Number of visits made by Rodent Operator	...	...	1,138
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	1,009
Estimated number of mice destroyed	...	...	135

Under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, a re-survey of the district is in progress. The Rodent Operator uses the approved methods of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the treatment of infested premises, and good results have been obtained.

The sewers, sewage disposal works, river banks and refuse tip have received periodical inspections and treatment when necessary.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service, with a mainly weekly collection, has been maintained throughout the year with remarkably few complaints, despite some roads in Winsley being rendered unuseable owing to sewer laying operations.

Unsuccessful endeavours have been made to engage a Relief Driver for this service, which is rendered a little precarious owing to their being only one man, on the staff, who can drive.

An order has been placed for the delivery to this Council of a new 7 cubic yard Dennis Refuse Collection Vehicle.

On the 1st September, 1948, a fire broke out at the Refuse Tip at Beanacre. This has seriously damaged the tip surface, but fortunately the fire died down, and it is hoped to rebuild the surface in the new year.

## SALVAGE.

During the year, the following items have been sold for salvage :—

Waste Paper	31 tons 2 cwts.	}
Textiles	... 1 ton 5 cwts.	
Bones	... 1 ton 12 cwts.	

The Council entered for the National Waste Paper Contest for October, 1948, to March, 1949, and encouraging results have been obtained.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

During 1948, the above service has been brought into operation. Contractors are employed by the Council to visit the district every 3 months and carry out work notified to my office following newspaper advertisement.

During the year, 75 cesspools and septic tanks have been emptied, and the service has been of value to property owners and occupiers.

## HOUSING.

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	30
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	16
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	23
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	8
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	6

It will be seen that very little progress has been possible under the Rural Housing Survey, and to make a systematic drive in this connection, it is most essential that I be provided with qualified assistance.

At the moment, houses found to be suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act are reported to the Council and the formal procedure is taken. Other houses inspected are merely recorded and the information filed for future use.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	222
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	52
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	1
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	47
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	1

In a district of this nature, a variety of complaints are received and investigated. Every endeavour is made to obtain the abatement of nuisances by friendly, informal action, and it is only in the cases of difficulty that the matter is reported to the Public Health Committee for statutory action to be considered.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses by drainage and overflowing cesspools.

### SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found to be necessary with regard to smoke abatement during the year.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There has been no evidence of any infestation with bed bugs (*Cimex Lectularius*) in this district.

### GENERAL.

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention :—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	382
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	158
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	16
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous Housing visits, including visits to Council House applicants (for allocation of insanitary and overcrowding points)	...	...	...	...	...	135
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8
Retuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	62
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish Premises	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	34

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the encouragement and guidance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees.

I would mention my indebtedness to Miss A. J. Knight, the Clerk-Typist in my office, for her unflagging zeal in the work of the department. The Rodent Operator and the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have also given me the support necessary for the smooth running of the services provided.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. NOBLE.

*Sanitary Inspector.*

ABBEY HOUSE,  
BRADFORD-ON-AVON.  
*January, 1949.*



